Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 01817 110942Z

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 L-03 DLOS-04

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3304

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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EE.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PBOR,PLOS,TC,IR

SUBJECT: UAE-IRAN CONTINENTIAL SHELF BOUNDARY RATIFICATION

REF: A. STATE 175827; B. TEHRAN 7465

- 1. EMBASSY REGRETS DELAY IN RESPONDING TO REF A, BUT WE HAD HOPED BE ABLE PROVIDE MORE DEFINITE ANSWERS TO QUERIES RAISED THEREIN. SINCE FURTHER DELAY OF INDETERMINATE LENGTH NOW SEEMS INEVITABLE, WE OFFER FOLLOWING AS OUR BEST UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT SITUATION.
- 2. BOTH DUBAI-IRAN AND ABU DHABI-IRAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO AND APPROVED BY UAE FOREIGN MINISTRY. (IN THIO CONNECTION, WE HAVE NO REPEAT NO INDICATION THAT ISSUES INVOLVING SAUDI-UAE BORDER SETTLEMENT-PARA 2B REF B-ARE DELAYING OR OTHERWISE AFFECTING ABU DHABI-IRAN AGREEMENT.) FORMAL "RATIFICATION", HOWEVER, INVOLVES ACTION BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THIS IN TURN RAISES YET ANOTHER ASPECT OF INDIVIDUAL EMIRATE VERSUS FEDERATION PROBLEM. HOW DOES FEDERAL COUNCIL DEAL WITH BORDER AGREEMENTS REACHED BY INDIVIDUAL EMIRATES? AND IF ONE CONVERTS EXISTING AGREEMENTS INTO FEDERAL ONE, WHAT DOES ONE DO ABOUT THAT PORTION OF UAE-IRAN CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY STILL UNDER DISPUTE? FONMIN UNDER SECRETARY, ABDULLA MAZRU'I TOLD CHARGE THERE HAD BEEN SEVERAL MEETINGS ON THIS ISSUE THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ABU DH 01817 110942Z

SUMMER, MOST RECENTLY INTER-MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION ON SEPT

1 INVOLVING REPS OF MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERIOR, JUSTICE AND AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES. BUT NOTHING WAS RESOLVED. IN SHORT, LOWER LEVEL OFFICIALS FIND THIS ONE BIT TOO HOT TO HANDLE. MAZRU'I STATED SEPT 4 THAT MATTER WOULD REST UNTIL RETURN OF FONMIN SUWAIDI, LEAVING IT TO HIM TO DECIDE HOW ISSUE IS TO BE PRESENTED TO COUNCIL. WITH SUWAIDI NOW BACK, ACTION IS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, WITH MOVEMENT ON OTHER ASPECTS OF FEDERAL-EMIRATE RELATIONS ISSUE APPARENTLY TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER RAMADAN (SEE SEPTEL), WE

EXPECT CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE TO REMAIN ON BACK BURNER FOR PRESENT.

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